

FRIENDS OF WEST NORWOOD CEMETERY

Newsletter No. 25 - JANUARY 1996

Price £1 (Free to Members)

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Chairman's Report

Welcome to the new-look FOWNC Newsletter. There will be further 16-page editions in May and in September. Jill Dudman and I remain as editors. We are grateful to John Brown for undertaking layout and production.

Articles, letters, photographs, etc. for possible publication in future Newsletters should be sent to Jill or to me, preferably as ASCII disk files for anything over 100 words or so. Although the opinions of potential contributors will always be respected, editorial control of material published will of course remain with the editors/publishers. We are going to take the initiative and attempt to commission more articles from members, lecturers, etc., so be warned!

The 1996 Programme of Events

I am pleased to report that Tony Fletcher, a FOWNC member of long standing, has agreed to join the Committee and become our Events Officer. We thus plan to continue our programme of indoor meetings.

The 1996 programme is attached - the February to April events are reviewed elsewhere in this Newsletter. Note that we have not been able to organise a January meeting, but there will be a full programme for 1997. Note also that, apart from the re-run of my August 1995 tour and those to be held on June 19/20, all the specialist tours are new.

We don't plan to hold a formal Open Day this year, but for June 19/20 we plan to offer a range of tours on both afternoons. This will be an opportunity to attend a tour for those of you who are never free on Sundays. We will also arrange access to the Catacombs, bring the bookstall and make sure that Committee members are on hand to talk to members, etc. More details in the May newsletter.

We are going to try to obtain more members and inter alia to encourage better attendances at meetings and tours. It takes just as much effort to produce a newsletter and programme of events for 1,000 members as for 250, so please tell your friends about us and encourage them to join.

Conservation In the Cemetery

There is little to report as regards the implementation of the Consistory Court judgement except that, as Don Bianco details elsewhere in this Newsletter, there is progress on reinstating the monuments to Sir William Cubitt and to John Garrett. In addition, the wooden posts around the monument to Ann Joyce (grave 68, square 61) have been removed.

We remain grateful to Mr Bob Mackay, Cemetery Superintendent, for removal of undergrowth in the area of the Pond mausoleum (square 88). In order to initiate some tombstone conservation, we have suggested that the monuments of Charles Alcock, Arthur Anderson, Dr William Marsden, and David Roberts RA should be tackled in the first instance since external funds are available or promised in these cases. As an interim measure we have put in hand the restoration of the Roberts tombstone.

Lambeth's newly-appointed Conservation Officer, Aine MacDonnagh, is investigating the possibility of formal collaboration with FOWNC and English Heritage over monument restoration in the cemetery. The problem of the formal relationship between FOWNC and Lambeth will have to be solved if we are to collaborate over future grant bids, etc.

Finally, I am pleased to report that Don Bianco has agreed to lead a 'project team' to prepare the proposal for rebuilding the Episcopal Chapel incorporating a visitor/interpretation centre, lecture room, etc. This is clearly a massive project in itself, but I believe it is central to all our current and future efforts.

1996 Subscriptions

Please remember that, unless you have already renewed your membership or joined FOWNC since September 1995, your 1996 subscription (£2 minimum) is now due. We remain grateful for your support and hope you will wish to continue to assist our work. Please send your subscription to Rosemary Comber. Please note her new address is 63 Bradley Road, London SE19 3NT.

Bob Flanagan

James Busby (1799-1871)

Bob Flanagan

There are many echoes of Empire at Norwood, but none have intrigued me as much as the inscription on the grave of James Busby (grave 13,335, square 86):

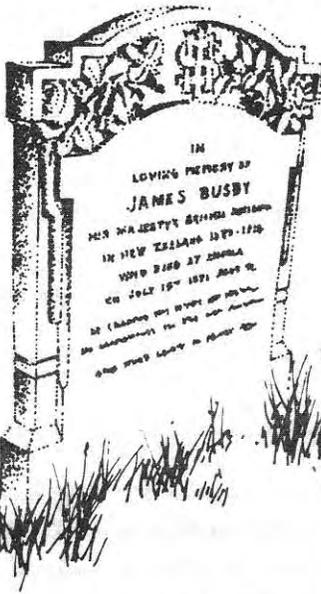
In
Loving Memory of

JAMES BUSBY

His Majesty's British Resident
in New Zealand 1833-1840
Who Died at Anerley
on July 15th 1871 Aged 72

He drafted the Treaty of Waitangi
He introduced the vine into Australia

'And Their Work Shall Follow Them'



James Busby's Gravestone

The recent apology by HM The Queen, on behalf of the UK government, for not keeping to the terms of the Treaty of Waitangi (Tiriti o Waitangi) has prompted me to investigate this inscription.

I am grateful to Sophie Griffith of the New Zealand High Commission for supplying much of the information in this article and to Don Bianco for the line drawings.

Perhaps one day the Mayor of Lambeth will formally apologise to cemetery plottolders, to FOWNC, and to the people of Lambeth for the Council's illegal acts of destruction in the cemetery over the years?

British Resident in New Zealand

James Busby was born in Glasgow. He travelled to New South Wales with his father John who had been appointed mineral surveyor and civil engineer to the colony. After working in the civil service, James came back to England in 1831. However, in 1832 he was appointed the first British Resident in New Zealand. He arrived in the Bay of Islands in May 1833. He bought land at Waitangi at his own expense and built a house there.

In New Zealand, Busby had no legal means of enforcing law and order (he was not even made a Justice of the Peace), no armed forces, and no funds, and relied for his authority on the occasional visits of British warships. He thus became known to the settlers and to the Maoris alike as 'Man-o-War Without Guns' and 'No Authority Busby'. 'Slightly wounded' by Maori marauders in 1834, his frequent requests to the UK Government via New South Wales for increased powers went unheeded, and his impotence gained him what many regard as an undeserved reputation for inefficiency.

The Treaty of Waitangi

Spurred on by the arrival of Baron de Thierry, a French immigrant who declared himself to be sovereign chief of New Zealand, in 1834 Busby persuaded 35 northern Maori chiefs to sign a declaration of independence creating a Confederation of the Chiefs and Tribes of New Zealand with exclusive legislative powers. James even designed a Confederation flag! The Colonial Office acknowledged the declaration, but it soon became obvious that without substantive Government backing, the treaty would be ineffectual.

Captain William Hobson RN visited New Zealand in 1837 and proposed that the districts settled by Europeans should be under direct British rule. British sovereignty over New Zealand was established in international law by New South Wales Governor Sir George Gipps RE (1791-1847) who proclaimed on 14 January 1840 that the colony's frontiers included New Zealand.

Busby, however, continued to support his confederation scheme and was preparing to travel to London when he was advised of Hobson's appointment as Consul and Lieutenant-Governor. He then drafted the Treaty of Waitangi and negotiated its acceptance by the Maoris.

James Busby had no legal means of enforcing law and order and became known to the settlers and to the Maoris alike as "Man-o-War Without Guns" and "No Authority Busby"



James Busby

The treaty was in fact signed by Hobson and by some Maori leaders in the grounds of Busby's house at Waitangi on 6 February 1840. The significance of this document has been debated ever since. To further complicate matters, on 21 May 1840, whilst signatures to the Treaty were still being sought, Hobson proclaimed British sovereignty over the North Island by virtue of the Treaty, and over the South and Stewart Islands on the basis of Captain Cook's discoveries in the 1770s. In 1841 New Zealand became a colony in its own right. In 1843 Captain Robert Fitzroy¹ became the second governor of the new colony.

Interpretations of the Treaty of Waitangi

Some of the confusion surrounding the Treaty, which consists of a preamble, three articles and an epilogue, may have stemmed from the problems of translating an English legal text (Busby must have had some experience of the law!) to a form the Maoris could be made to understand. The following text is from the preamble to the Treaty dated 6 February 1840 and signed at Waitangi and afterwards by about 500 chiefs (I hope I have copied this correctly - my spell-checker doesn't do Maori!):

'Ko Wikitoria te Kuini o Ingarani i tana mahara atawai ki nga Rangatira me nga Hapu o Nu Tirani i tana haihia hoki kia tohungia ki a ratou o ratou rangatiratanga me to ratou wenua, a kia man tonu hoki te Rongo ki a ratou me te Atanoho hoki kua wakaaro ia he mea tika kea tukua mai tetahi Rangatira - hei kai wakarite ki nga Tangata maori o Nu Tirani - kia wakaetia e nga Rangatira maori te Kawanatanga o te Kuini ki nga wahikatoa o te wenua nei me nga motu.'

A literal translation of this Maori text is given below:

'Victoria, the Queen of England, in her kind [gracious] thoughtfulness to the Chiefs and Hapus [tribes] of New Zealand, and her desire to preserve to them their chieftainship and their land, and that peace and quietness may be kept with them, because a great number of the people of her tribe have settled in this country, and [more] will come, has thought it right to send a chief [an officer] as one who will make a statement to [negotiate with] the Maori people of New Zealand. Let the Maori chiefs accept the governorship [Kawanatanga] of the Queen over all parts of this country and the Islands.'

¹ Vice-admiral Robert Fitzroy RN (1805-1865), of Darwin and the Beagle fame, is buried in All Saints Churchyard, Upper Norwood. His tombstone has recently been listed Grade II.

The official text is as follows:

'Her Majesty Victoria Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland regarding with her royal favour the Native Chiefs and Tribes of New Zealand and anxious to protect their just Rights and Property and to secure to them the enjoyment of Peace and Good Order has deemed it necessary in consequence of the great number of Her Majesty's Subjects who have already settled in New Zealand and the rapid extension of Emigration from both Europe and Australia which is still in progress to constitute and appoint a functionary properly authorized to treat with the Aborigines of New Zealand for the recognition of Her Majesty's Sovereign authority over the whole or part of those islands.'

In summary, the Maori version stresses that the Crown promised to preserve and protect the chiefs and tribes in their proper rank and status and to give them full rights as British citizens. The British version, however, stresses provision for British settlement and for transfer of property rights to the Crown. In the event, some Maori chiefs never gave their mark to the Treaty as they were feuding with others who had. Within a decade the first Chief Justice of New Zealand, Sir William Martin (1807-1880), had ruled that the Treaty had no validity as it had not been incorporated into New Zealand's statutory law. This remains the position today, although in 1975 the Waitangi Tribunal was set up by Parliament to investigate Maori claims against the Crown. Most of the Tribunal's recommendations are still not binding, however.

James Busby in Private Life

But what of the final claim on James Busby's tombstone? One source vouchsafes that he 'studied viticulture in France as a very young man'. What is certain is that he took vines from Syon Park in Middlesex to New South Wales and to New Zealand and there embarked upon experiments which laid the foundations of the present-day Australian and New Zealand wine industries. A commemorative plaque in the conservatory at Syon Park records this event. It seems likely this took place in 1832-3.

His days as British Resident over, James visited Sydney but returned to settle in New Zealand. He represented the Bay of Islands on the Auckland Provincial Council, 1853-63. He established a newspaper in Auckland partly to make a case against what he considered the Government's unjust treatment of land claims made by other settlers and by himself. He was awarded over £30,000 in compensation in 1869, but received only £23,000, £14,000 of which went to pay his legal fees.

Busby is remembered in New Zealand - both his house and grounds at Waitangi have been preserved as a national monument. Waitangi Day, 6 February, is a public holiday. But how did he come to be buried in a long-forgotten grave at Norwood? Certainly this is a classic example of important historical information which would have probably been lost for ever if the tombstone had been destroyed without being properly recorded.

Dr William Marsden (1796-1867)

Bob Flanagan

Amongst the many famous names commemorated at Norwood, that of William Marsden is in the top rank. According to the Dictionary of National Biography (DNB), he trained as a surgeon and studied under the famous surgeon and lecturer John Abernethy (1764-1831) at St Bartholomew's Hospital. After discovering the difficulties experienced by the poor in obtaining treatment Marsden set up a small establishment in Hatton Garden in 1828 to treat patients with no fee or formality (a bit like the NHS aimed to do...). This became the Royal Free Hospital which was formally constituted in 1843 at a site in Gray's Inn Road.

Marsden later turned his attention to cancer sufferers and set up another small treatment house in Westminster in 1851 - this developed into the Brompton Cancer Hospital, now the Royal Marsden Hospital, Fulham Road. Marsden was awarded the degree of Doctor of Medicine by the University of Erlangen in 1838.

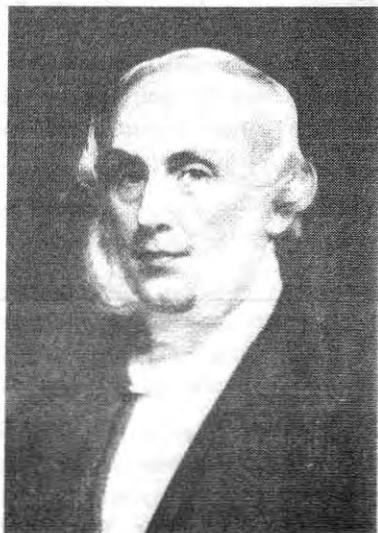
Dr Alexander Edwln Marsden

William's son Alexander (1832-1902) followed in his father's footsteps. He became a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1854 and was awarded the degree of Doctor of Medicine by the University of St Andrews in 1862. Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh followed in 1868.

After service as a surgeon at Scutari and Sevastopol during the Crimean War, he was surgeon to the Royal Free Hospital from 1853 to 1884. He was also surgeon to the Brompton Cancer Hospital. Research for this note has revealed that he too is buried in the family vault. His career, like that of his father, is recorded in the DNB, thereby bringing the current total of those buried at Norwood and commemorated in the original DNB to 211 (see Newsletter 24).

The Marsden Monument at Norwood

The plot (grave 269, square 62) was purchased by William Marsden in 1841 and the monument was seemingly installed after the death of his first wife Elizabeth Ann in 1846.



Dr. William Marsden

William, Alexander and Alexander's widow Catherine (1832-1922) are commemorated on the monument together with George Thorpe Marsden and Elizabeth Lewis Marsden (who they?).

The tombstone is a Regency-style column and landing in Portland stone and is situated near to the site of Tite's Episcopal Chapel. It is listed Grade II and is one of the earliest monuments surviving in the cemetery. Sadly, the classical swagged urn surmounting the column and the cast iron railings were stolen sometime in the 1970s. More recently the monument has suffered an inappropriate cleaning and re-lettering at the hands of well-meaning friends from the Royal Marsden.

William Marsden was born in September 1796 and thus 1996 is the bicentenary of his birth. We hope to work with Lambeth, the Royal Free, the Royal Marsden, and Marsden's great, great grand-daughter Noelle Sandwith, who has assumed formal ownership of the plot, in undertaking a full restoration of the monument before September. A simple rededication ceremony is then planned.

Members will have the opportunity to learn more about William Marsden and his hospitals at our meeting at the Chatsworth Baptist Church Hall on 16 March (see the 1996 Events List).

William Marsden and George Davidge

We don't know why Marsden chose Norwood as the site for his family grave. However, we do know that he was a great friend of the actor/manager George Bolwell Davidge (1793-1842). Davidge was engaged at the Royal Coburg Theatre, Waterloo (later the Royal Victoria, now the Old Vic) when it first opened in 1818. He was joint lessee, 1824-6, and sole lessee, 1826-33. After leaving the Coburg he acted at the Surrey where he later became lessee. He died on 1 February 1842 at his home, Davidge Terrace, Kennington Road.

Davidge Terrace is still there, but its twin, Bolwell Terrace, was damaged by bombing in the last war and subsequently demolished. Bolwell Terrace is remembered as the birthplace of (Sir) Arthur Seymour Sullivan (1842-1900).

Davidge is buried at Norwood (grave 398, square 62) beneath an elaborate hexagonal pulpit which survives directly opposite Marsden's grave. It may yet be possible to find out who designed Davidge's tombstone. His executor, the actor Thomas Potter Cooke (1786-1864), and William Marsden were amongst the mourners at his funeral.

We know of other cross-family juxtapositions of tombs in the cemetery which were clearly planned, given that the Greek cemetery is a special case: Douglas Jerrold chose to be buried opposite his friend Laman Blanchard, whilst the prize-fighters Edward Neale (the 'Streatham Youth'), and Johnny and Harry Broome lie close to Tom Spring's grave.

Joseph Whitaker and his Almanack

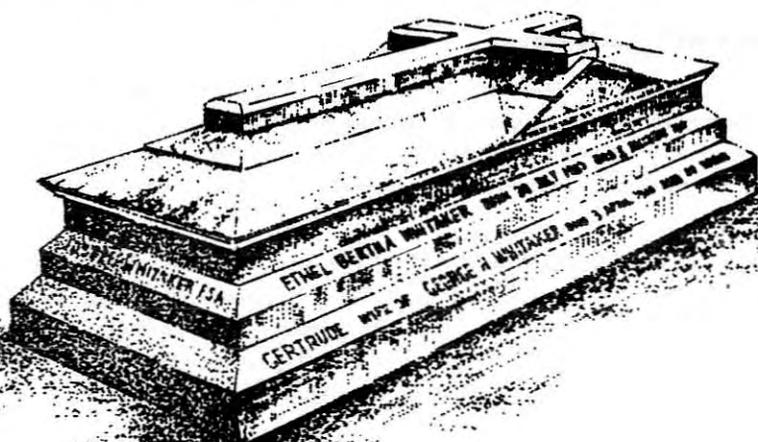
Bob Flanagan

The names Beeton, Doulton, Reuter and Tate are at least as well known today as when their monuments were erected in the cemetery. Sadly another well known family name featured amongst the monuments demolished illegally by Lambeth in 1980-1. Joseph Vernon Whitaker (1845-1895) and his father Joseph Whitaker (1820-1895) (grave 17,887, square 89) are both commemorated by entries in the Dictionary of National Biography. Joseph was the founder of the family firm and of the famous Almanack which bears his name and which has appeared annually since 1869.

Early Days

Joseph was born in London on 4 May 1820, the son of a silversmith. Aged 13 he was apprenticed to a Mr Barritt, a bookseller in Fleet Street. In 1843 or thereabouts he became an assistant to John William Parker in the Strand, where he edited *Morning and Evening Church Services*. He next worked for the well-known firm of J.H. Parker of Oxford, in due course opening a branch for them at 377 Strand.

In 1849 Joseph originated the *Penny Post*, the first penny monthly Church magazine. In 1850 he projected the *Educational Register* and *Whitaker's Clergyman's Diary*, both of which he published for four years. *The Clergyman's Diary* continued to be issued by the Worshipful Company of Stationers long after his death.



Whitaker Family Tombstone in 1980

In the mid-1850s Joseph went into business independently mainly as a theological publisher in Pall Mall and, from 1855, at 310 Strand. He also published a fine-art review, *The Artist*, at this time.

Whitaker's Almanack

From 1856-9 Joseph was part-time editor of *The Gentleman's Magazine*. Under the time-honoured pseudonym of Sylvanus Urban he personally edited the correspondence columns, famous for their diversity. To fit himself for this work he compiled a 'commonplace book' (nowadays a scrapbook or file I guess) of newspaper cuttings, questions and answers which had appeared in his own or contemporary magazines, manuscript notes likely to be of future service, and extracts from such sources as Government Blue Books.

Joseph's work on *The Bookseller* monthly, which he started in 1858, caused him to give up the editorship of *The Gentleman's Magazine*. The popularity of *The Bookseller* was further enhanced when it merged with *Bent's Literary Adviser* in 1860.

After some years Joseph remembered his commonplace book, for although *The Bookseller* had been immediately successful, the demands of his large and still increasing family (he had 15 children) led him to look for further sources of income. He decided to prepare and present to the public the accumulated facts which had been so useful to him. To supplement them, and to justify the use of the word Almanack, he enlisted the support of the Astronomer Royal, Sir George Biddell Airy (1801-1892). Airy welcomed the idea of a publication which might help popularize astronomy and nominated a member of his staff to supply information. Unlike *Old Moore's Almanac*, *Whitaker's Almanack* has never included predictions!

The Almanack: Early Days

Whitaker's Almanack for 1869 was published on 10 December 1868 from 10 Warwick Square. It was an instant success: 36,000 copies were subscribed before publication, and the original print order of 40,000 was increased several times. The next year the offices of the Almanack were moved to 12 Warwick Lane, where they remained for 70 years.

The printers of the Almanack from 1874-1900 were Bradbury, Agnew, and Co., and from 1901 to date the printers have been William Clowes and Sons.¹ In 1878 when Cleopatra's Needle was being erected on the embankment, it was decided that a set of the current coinage, a copy of the *Times* for the day of the inaugural ceremony and a copy of *Whitaker's Almanack* for the year should be included in the foundations - presumably they are still there.

¹ William Hardwick Bradbury (1832-1892) (grave 24,774, square 21), William Clowes senior (1779-1847) (grave 645, square 34) and William Clowes junior (1807-1883) (grave 1,616, square 34) are all buried at Norwood.

Joseph in Later Life

Joseph helped organize a fund for the relief of booksellers in Paris in 1871, and as a distributor of the fund was one of the first Englishmen to enter Paris after the siege. He continued to publish a number of devotional works, and in 1874 he produced the first edition of *The Reference Catalogue of Current Literature* (known since 1965 as *British Books in Print* and since 1988 as *Whitaker's Books in Print*). He was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in 1875, but increasing deafness prevented him from taking much part in public life in his later years.



Joseph Whitaker

Joseph's elder son, Joseph Vernon Whitaker, had joined the army, but had bought himself out. He worked with his father on *The Bookseller* from c.1870, and also worked in America for a while. Subsequently he edited *The Bookseller* from 1875 until his own death in January 1895. He was also part-time editor of the *Reference Catalogue* and worked with his father on the first issue of the *Stationery Trades' Journal*.

The Family Firm

Joseph himself died at Enfield in 1895 soon after his son's death. His oldest surviving son, George H. Whitaker, took over the management of the business. A younger son, Cuthbert, took over as editor of the Almanack, a position he occupied until his own death in 1950. The firm, J. Whitaker & Sons, is still going strong today and remains a family concern. The current managing director is Sally Whitaker, great grand-daughter of Joseph, and her elder brother David is non-executive chairman. The marketing director is Martin Whitaker, Sally's nephew. *Whitaker's Almanack* too is still going strong.

I am indebted to Sally Whitaker for supplying information about the Whitakers and for the likeness of Joseph which has enabled Don Bianco to produce his line drawing. Fortunately, Eric Smith photographed the family monument just before it was bulldozed hence Don Bianco's second drawing. Sally Whitaker has expressed an interest in reinstating the memorial. We don't yet know why the family chose to be buried at Norwood.

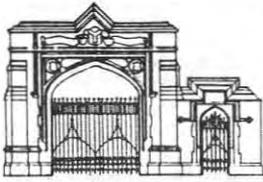
Norwood Past and Present

My offer of a prize to anyone who could list all the mistakes in the section in Allan Galer's book on the cemetery drew a response which listed all the clear mistakes bar one. The full list is:

George **Bothwell** Davidge should be Bolwell; Harriet Waylett (**Kate Kearney**) no evidence that she used the name Kate Kearney; **Arthur** Crowquill should be Alfred; Gideon Mantell, discoverer of the .. **Pterodactylus** - Pterodactylus was discovered by Mary Anning (1799-1847) of Lyme; Alfred Henry **Forester** should be Forrester; Lord Justice **Baggalay** should be Baggallay; Samuel **Leman** Blanchard should be Laman; Rev. Baldwin **Bawn** should be Brown and **Moffatt** the missionary should be Moffat.

I'm not sure if Samuel Prout held the title Painter in Water Colours in Ordinary to William IV, but he did hold this title under George IV and Queen Victoria.

I wonder if some of the mistakes arose because Galer misread inscriptions or were the inscriptions wrong? After all, his is one of the first published lists of 'Norwood Notables'. A possible explanation for his association of Kate Kearney with Harriet Waylett could be that she was described on her monument as 'Singer of Kate Kearney' or somesuch. Sadly, we will never now know as the tombstone was demolished by Lambeth some 15 years ago!



Conservation News

Don Bianco

The tombstones of Sir William Cubitt (1785-1861) (grave 7,740, square 36) and of John Garrett (-1881) (grave 18,539, square 18) were Grade II listed monuments which disappeared during the London Borough of Lambeth's 'lawn conversion' programme. In his judgement the Chancellor ordered that these monuments be reinstated at cost to the Council. Preliminary investigations have been carried out by English Heritage to establish what archaeological evidence survives in order to assist the Council's efforts to faithfully reconstruct (as far as is practicable) these memorials.

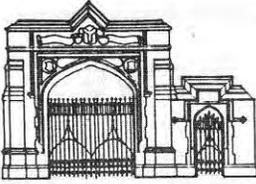
The grave of Sir William has no superstructure remaining. However, a colour photograph taken by the late Eric Smith in the early 1980s shows the memorial to have been a plain rectangular Yorkstone slab above a yellow London stock brick vault. The stone was raised a couple of feet above ground level, and bore the simple inscription:

SIR WILLIAM CUBITT
K^{NT},
Died 13th October 1861,
Aged 76 Years.

The only surviving fabric is the brickwork just below top soil level which clearly indicates the size of the vault. Probe tests into the grave itself, which is filled with soil, did not reveal the presence of masonry debris. It is thus likely that the memorial was cleared away in its entirety and not smashed and thrown into the vault as has been suggested. However, further exploratory works may provide additional information.

The grave of John Garrett has very little superstructure remaining. A photograph provided by the Cemetery Superintendent, and reproduced in FOWNC Newsletter No. 20 (Oct 1994), shows that the memorial was an extraordinary diminutive bay of a parclose screen mimicking an earlier Decorated period of Gothic architecture. The monument was of massive proportions and vigorous in treatment, with pierced traceried panels of trefoil, all bold and flowing in design, reminiscent of the Chancel screen in Geddington Church, Northants. This suggests the memorial was fashioned in timber, a view supported by the Listing description. On site no material evidence was found to indicate the type of timber used, but the two concrete foundations of the uprights of the screen, and fragments of their Portland stone bases were found. Further exploratory works may provide additional information.

Happily, a great deal more was found in the case of the Garrett tomb than originally expected. This is encouraging, although much research is still necessary to enable an accurate restoration to be performed. Any further information will be welcome.



Recent FOWNC Events

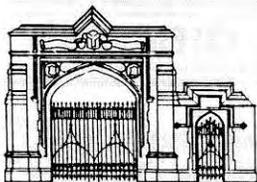
Jill Dudman

Prior to the AGM on 21 October, Dr David Perrett of the Greater London Industrial Archaeology Society (GLIAS) gave a talk about the construction of Tower Bridge. Starting with a survey of London river crossings from earliest times, he introduced us to the work of a little known but wealthy body, the Bridge House Estates. An ancient charitable trust and a part of the Corporation of London, it owns and maintains the bridges within the area of the City. In response to popular appeals in the late 19th century for an additional crossing east of London Bridge, plans were drawn up for a bridge that would allow tall ships to pass into the Pool of London.

The now famous bascule structure was a joint design by the City Corporation architect Sir Horace Jones (1819-1887), whose tomb at Norwood (grave 12,335, square 89) was recently listed Grade II, and the engineer (Sir) John Wolfe-Barry (1836-1918). All the works were paid for by the Bridge House Estates. Dr Perrett gave details of the construction and operation of the bridge which finally opened in 1894. The piers and abutments were built by another Norwood 'resident', (Sir) John Jackson (1851-1919) (grave 21,994, square 19). Tower Bridge is more modern than it appears: the towers consist of steel frameworks, the stone cladding merely giving a Victorian Gothic style so that it blends with the Tower of London.

At the 18 November meeting, FOWNC member John Brown gave us a 'conducted tour' of St Leonard's churchyard. A small burial ground compared with Norwood; 282 grave stones have been identified, the earliest dating from 1708. John pointed out some Norwood connections. For example, a young girl named Mary Thorpe was governess to the daughter of Sir Kingsmill Grove Key at the Rookery, a large house which stood on Streatham Common. Sir Kingsmill and his father Sir John, a former Lord Mayor of London, are buried in the family tomb at Norwood (grave 5,641, square 33). Whilst working at the Rookery Mary met, and subsequently married, the draper George Pratt, founder of Streatham's once grand department store. The Pratt family grave at St Leonard's is an imposing pink granite stone.

Other notables buried in the churchyard include William and Edmund Coulthurst, senior partners in Coutts Bank; Sir Arthur Helps, clerk to the Privy Council under Queen Victoria; and the eminent artist William Dyce. John has been recording the surviving inscriptions before they are eroded completely. His book on the churchyard, 'Dead Centre of Streatham', is available from the FOWNC bookstall, price £2.50.



Forthcoming FOWNC Events January - April 1996

General tours will be held on the first Sunday of each month (7 January, 4 February, 3 March and 7 April). A special tour will also be held in April as detailed below.

The tours start at 11.00 (January-March) or 14.30 (April) at the Cemetery main gate off Norwood Road, and last for 2 hours or so. There is no formal charge, but we welcome donations of £1 per person (50p concessions) towards conservation projects.

Talks will be held as detailed below at Chatsworth Baptist Church, Chatsworth Way, SE27, starting at 14.30. Chatsworth Way leads off Norwood Road, but the entrance to the meeting room is at the side of the Church in Idmiston Road. Again, there is no formal charge but we welcome donations of at least £1 per person (50p concessions) to help cover costs.

Saturday 17 February 1996

Lecture - Thomas Cubitt, Builder of Belgravia - John Gardner ARIBA

Thomas Cubitt (1788-1855) was the founder of the building contracting industry. His workmen laid out the great squares and streets of Belgravia and Bloomsbury. John Gardner, an architect who spent 35 years working in Belgravia, has made a detailed study of Cubitt's work.

This talk will include material not previously presented in his talks to the Norwood Society. Thomas Cubitt's tombstone at Norwood (grave 649, square 48) is reputedly the largest block of granite in the cemetery!

Saturday 16 March 1996

Lecture - Dr. William Marsden - [Speaker to be confirmed]

See article on William Marsden on page 7.

Sunday 21 April 1996

Special Tour of the Cemetery - Chairman's Miscellany - Bob Flanagan

Despite our efforts to run a range of tours, most of the surviving monuments at Norwood never get a mention. This tour aims to include some of these 'also rans' and some other features of the cemetery such as mausolea, and, to paraphrase the Heineken advert, aims to 'reach parts of the cemetery other tours don't reach'. A re-run of the over-subscribed tour held last August but with some new material.

Other Society Events

Norwood Society

The Crystal Palace Dinosaurs
Tuesday 26 March 1996 at 8.00pm
Steve McCarthy,
Chairman, Crystal Palace Foundation
at All Saint's Church Hall,
Beulah Hill, London SE19.

Peckham Society

Architecture of Southwark
Thursday 21 March 1996 at 8.15pm
Tim Charlesworth
at Wilson Road Annexe,
Camberwell College of Art,
London SE5.

Charles Dickens and Southwark
Sunday 28 April 1996 at 3.40pm
Stephen Humphries,
Archivist,
Southwark Local Studies Library
at St John's Church Vestry,
East Dulwich Road,
London SE22.

Friends of West Norwood Cemetery

The annual subscription to the
Friends of West Norwood Cemetery
is £2.

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